

Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) Pilot Proposal Guidelines FY 2001



Key Changes
10/03/00

Cooperative Agreement Ceilings Increased

The award ceiling has been increased to \$1,000,000 per eligible entity.

Eligibility Criteria for Cooperative Agreements Expanded

Eligibility has been expanded so that states, political subdivisions, or Indian Tribes only need to demonstrate that they have an established brownfields program. Threshold criteria are revised so that applicants must describe the community's progress in assessing, cleaning up, and revitalizing brownfields.

Recipients Have Greater Flexibility in the Use of Cooperative Agreement Funds

At least 70% of the funds are to be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund; 20% may be used by the cooperative agreement recipient as direct financial assistance to carry out site-specific "lead agency" responsibilities in combination with a loan (e.g., to prepare the engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA)); and 10% may be used to cover the recipient's general administrative costs. The loan fund may also be used for "subawards" (from the 70%) to enable non-profit or governmental borrowers to more effectively participate in the program.

(Based on award of up to \$1,000,000)

Eligibility Criteria for Borrowers Expanded

Eligibility criteria for borrowers have been expanded to include owner/operators that acquired property after the time of disposal, and the lead agency determines that the owner/operator has not caused, contributed to, permitted or exacerbated the release of a hazardous substances on or emanating from the property.

Opportunities for Coalitions Expanded

An existing coalition may apply on behalf of one or more new eligible entities seeking to join a coalition. Existing coalitions making proposals on behalf of new eligible entities shall provide written affirmation that members of the existing coalition support the addition of the new entity(ies) to the coalition.

Language is more flexible, stating that a preference will be given in the first round of lending to each individual entity of the coalition. Subsequent lending to coalition members may be based upon project need.

Site Manager Definition Clarified

Site managers are still required to be government employees. Additional guidance has provided other options which include: (1) an employee of the political subdivision, a state government employee, or federal employee such as someone for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Bureau of Reclamation; (2) a political subdivision's use of a city ordinance that permits the temporary hiring of city personnel; (3) a designation by the lead agency of an employee as site manager who utilizes technical support from EPA regional staff; and (4) a designation by the lead agency of any employee as site manager and contracts for technical support.

Greater Emphasis on Making Loans in Criteria

Wording of evaluation criterion was changed and proposed applicants are “strongly urged” to work toward making an initial loan within 12 months of award.

BCRLF pilot applicants must provide a proposed implementation schedule and time line for the initial round of lending to demonstrate their commitment toward making an initial loan within 12 months of award.